

In the Iowa Supreme Court

**In the Matter of Adoption of
the Nonsubstantive Restyling
of the Iowa Rules of Evidence**

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Order

CLERK SUPREME COURT

The Iowa Supreme Court adopts the nonsubstantive restyling of the Iowa Rules of Evidence contained in chapter 5 of the Iowa Court Rules. The Iowa Rules of Evidence have historically patterned the Federal Rules of Evidence, and the restyling makes the Iowa rules more consistent with the restyled federal rules that became effective in 2011. Bringing the Iowa rules in line with their current federal counterparts also achieves an internally more consistent, clearer, easier-to-use, and plain English-oriented set of rules.

Before adopting the nonsubstantive restyling of the Iowa rules, the supreme court thoroughly reviewed the restyling and carefully considered public comments received. The court appreciates the thoughtful comments received on the proposed restyling.

The supreme court recognizes that Iowa rules of evidence substantively differ from their federal counterparts in a number of ways. These substantive differences are retained in the restyled Iowa Rules of Evidence.

The supreme court will expand the restyling working group to form an advisory committee for the purpose of addressing the substantive differences of the Iowa Rules of Evidence from the federal rules and whether there should be substantive changes made to the Iowa rules. This is a project in addition to the nonsubstantive restyling effort. When the newly formed advisory committee makes recommendations to the supreme court regarding substantive matters with the Iowa rules, the public will be asked to submit comments regarding substantive

amendments the advisory committee proposes.

Effective January 1, 2017, current chapter 5 of the Iowa Court Rules will be stricken in its entirety and will be replaced with the restyled chapter 5 Iowa Rules of Evidence provided with this order, subject to Iowa Legislative Council approval consistent with the provisions of Iowa Code section 602.4202. Once in effect, the new restyled chapter 5 Iowa Rules of Evidence will apply in all pending actions, unless the trial court orders otherwise.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2016.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By Mark S. Cady
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice